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*Boston University*

# News & Notes



Boston University School of Medicine

Issue #38

December 31, 1980

## BAYH, THORN AND LASKER HONORED WITH 2d ANNUAL HUMPHREY CENTER AWARDS

"On an occasion such as this, we should emphasize the lives that have been saved, the people who are living, and the loved ones who are loving today because of the sacrifices and efforts made at centers such as this,

and because of the good works of those we are honoring today," said Sen. Birch Bayh (D.-Ind.), at the Hubert H. Humphrey Cancer Research Center awards luncheon Dec. 17 at the Great Hall of Quincy Market.

Nearly 250 people attended the second annual awards ceremony, which included remarks by Gov. Edward J. King, Boston Mayor Kevin White, Dean Sandson and Cancer Center Director Paul H. Black, M.D., who discussed the programs and future plans of the Center.

Bayh accepted one of this year's awards, given posthumously to his wife, Marvella, for broadening the scope of public discussion on cancer. Luci Baines Johnson, a member of BUSM's Board of Visitors, presented the award to Bayh.

"Marvella took cancer out of the closet," Johnson said. "She talked of living with cancer, not dying from it." Marvella Bayh succumbed to cancer in April 1979, but she built upon her experience as a cancer patient to work as an effective volunteer, and later as a staff member, of the American Cancer Society.

Other recipients of this year's awards were Mary Lasker, a medical philanthropist and leader in the cancer-research effort in the United States, and George Thorn, M.D., also a member of the School's Board of Visitors, whose "conceptualization of the metabolic steroid-hormone environment in which all critical functions take place, including normal and abnormal cell growth, has had a direct and important bearing on many aspects of current cancer research," said Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., who presented the award to Thorn.

Accepting the award for Mary Lasker, who was ill, was her sister, Alice Fordyce, vice president of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. University President John R. Silber, Ph.D., presented the award and described Lasker as "a natural resource. She helped transform the scope and practice of medical research in the United States."

## BIOPHYSICS INSTITUTE RECEIVES \$3.5-MILLION RESEARCH GRANT

The National Institutes of Health on Dec. 1 awarded the School's Biophysics Institute a five-year \$3.5-million grant to support six major research projects

now under way at the Institute.

The grant, entitled "Lipid Physical Chemistry in Biology and Pathology," will support the study of atherosclerosis, diseases of the central nervous system and membrane



disorders. Complex polar lipids, the role of cholesterol in membrane structure and the role of the intestine in overall cholesterol homeostasis are among the subjects being examined, according to Institute Director Donald M. Small, M.D., a professor of medicine and biochemistry, who is principal investigator for the study.

The Institute has a staff of nearly 30, including BUSM faculty members, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. The work at the Institute focuses on "applying a biophysics rationale to the solution of medical problems," Small said.

MICHAEL HALBERSTAM '57  
IS SLAIN BY INTRUDER

Michael J. Halberstam '57, nationally known cardiologist and writer, was fatally shot Dec. 5 by an intruder in his Washington, D.C., home.

According to newspaper reports, Halberstam was shot twice in the chest, but was able to run down the assailant with his car. Halberstam later died on an operating table in a local hospital.

The editor-in-chief of Modern Medicine, Halberstam was the guest speaker at the BUSM Alumni Association's Annual Meeting and Banquet May 10. He was a member of the School's Board of Visitors and was the author of numerous works, including a political novel entitled The Wanting of Levine.

In a eulogy in the Dec. 7 edition of The New York Times, Halberstam was described as "a man of extraordinary energy and talents (whose) first love was undoubtedly his practice of medicine."

ALUMNUS LYTHCOTT ELECTED  
TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George I. Lythcott '43-A, administrator of the Health Services Administration of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, was one of four new members to be elected to the University's Board of Trustees at its annual meeting Nov. 6.

An internationally recognized leader in the field of public health, Lythcott received the Special Distinction Award of the University's General Alumni Association in 1978. In 1973 he received a Centennial Alumni Citation from the BUSM Alumni Association.

Lythcott is best known for his role in an international public-health effort to eradicate smallpox and control measles in Central and West Africa. He represented the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Communicable Disease Center from 1966 to 1969 as regional director of a successful five-year, \$50-million assistance program that aided 20 countries.

WHITAKER PROPOSAL DEADLINE  
SET FOR FEB. 1, 1981

BUSM researchers interested in applying for one of four \$30,000 grants from the Whitaker Health Sciences Fund must submit four copies of a two-page, double-spaced research proposal to their department chairpersons by Feb. 1. To be eligible, research projects must be joint efforts involving both a BUSM faculty member and a member of the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Curriculum vitae of both investigators also must be submitted with the proposal. Awards cover a year of work beginning July 1, 1981.

EPSTEIN WILL PRESENT SECOND  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH LECTURE

Paul Epstein, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, will discuss "Tropical Medicine: Nutritional, Environmental, Economic and Political Aspects of Health in Mozambique," on Thursday, Jan. 22, at 4:30 p.m. in Bakst Auditorium. The lecture is



the second of a series sponsored by the Office of the Associate Dean for International Health. The first lecture, presented earlier this month, was given by Robert Sarno, M.D., a visiting lecturer in pathology. He discussed health-care delivery in Cambodian refugee camps, according to Joseph J. Vitale, M.D., associate dean for international health and a professor of pathology and of socio-medical sciences and community medicine (nutrition).

PULMONARY DISEASE IS TOPIC  
OF JANUARY CME COURSE

Twelve BUSM faculty members will participate in a four-day continuing medical education course on "Pulmonary Disease 1981: Current Concepts for the Clinician," to

be held Jan. 26 to 29 at the Village at Smugglers' Notch in Jeffersonville, Vt. Topics to be discussed include "Sleep Apnea Syndromes," "Pulmonary Hypertension" and "Innovations in Tuberculosis Therapy," as well as workshops and case presentations. For registration information, contact Barbara Alpert at 424-5421.

SANDSON AMONG PARTICIPANTS  
AT PRIMARY CARE CONFERENCE

Dean Sandson, Owen Mathieu, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics, and David Rosenbloom, Ph.D., commissioner for Health and Hospitals in Boston, participated

in a conference entitled "Primary Care Education and Service: Partnership or Conflict," held Nov. 18 at the University's George Sherman Union. Sandson discussed "The Responsibility of the University," and Rosenbloom spoke about "The Responsibility of Local Government." Mathieu, who also is director of the Pediatric Ambulatory Service at Boston City Hospital, was moderator for the conference, which was sponsored by the University's Center for Primary Health Care.

BLACK ADDRESSES GROUP  
OF NEW JERSEY ALUMNI

Several BUSM alumni living in New Jersey met Oct. 29 at a dinner held at The Manor in West Orange, N.J., where they heard Paul H. Black, M.D., director of the Humphrey

Cancer Research Center, discuss the various aspects of research taking place at the Center. Alumni attending the event decided to formally organize the group, and a steering committee was selected, according to Marguerite Prescott, director of Alumni Affairs of the BUSM Alumni Association, who also attended the event. Members of that committee, which will obtain a charter for the group, are Harold Feldman '49, Stephen R. LoVerme '46, and Albert J. Plummer '49.

PARENTS MEET DEAN, EDELIN  
AT NEW YORK RECEPTION

One hundred and ten parents from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, attended a Nov. 16 champagne reception to meet and talk with Dean Sandson, at Leonard's in Great

Neck, N.Y. Kenneth C. Edelin, M.D., chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was the guest speaker at the event. He discussed "Medical Ethics in the Twentieth Century: Questions Today's Medical Students Must Face." Also attending the reception were Associate Dean Daniel Bernstein, M.D., and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rothbaum, co-chairpersons of the Parents Committee.

RISK ASSESSMENT IS FOCUS  
OF PRIM&R CONFERENCE

Several BUSM faculty members participated in a conference sponsored by the School and the organization Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R)

entitled "Risk Assessment: Its Role in Health and Research," held Oct. 20 to 21 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. This was the organization's sixth annual conference.

Sanford Chodosh, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and president of PRIM&R, presented the opening address and moderated a workshop on smoking and lung disease. He also took part in a panel discussion on "Risk Assessment as the Central Issue by Institutional Review Boards," moderated by Judith Swazey, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and director of Medicine in the Public Interest.



## BRIEFLY NOTED

Dean Sandson recently returned from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, where he participated in the celebration of the college's 25th anniversary. Sandson was associate dean for health services at the college and director of its hospital prior to his appointment as BUSM dean in 1974....Paul H. Black, M.D., director of the Humphrey Cancer Research Center, wrote a New England Journal of Medicine editorial on "Shedding from Normal and Cancer-Cell Surfaces," which appeared in the journal's Dec. 11 issue....Dennis Slone, M.D., and Samuel Shapiro, M.B., F.R.C.P.(E), directors of the Drug Epidemiology Unit, and several other members of the Unit, have written an article entitled "Decreased Risk of Endometrial Cancer Among Oral-Contraceptive Users," which appeared in the Oct. 30 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine....Herschel Jick, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, and Alexander M. Walker, M.D., M.P.H., an epidemiologist at the Medical Center, are co-authors of an article entitled "Predictors of Bleeding Heparin Therapy," which appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association....William P. Steffee, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and of medicine, is the author of "Malnutrition in Hospitalized Patients," an article that appeared in the Dec. 12 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association....John E. Madias, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and director of the Heart Station at Boston City Hospital, presented a paper entitled "Recent Work on Spontaneous Angina" during "Ellis Day 1980," a scientific symposium held Oct. 27 at the Harvard Medical School....NEWS & NOTES is a regular monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the School of Medicine community, call editor Susan Saperstein, x5606 (247-5606), or write to her at the Office of Informational Services, P-600 (720 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

## News & Notes

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